

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

By this Amendment, claim 1 was amended and claim 4 was cancelled. Claim 1 was amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 4 and to include features from claim 6. No new matter is submitted.

Drawings. Citing 37 CFR 1.83(a), the Office Action objected to the drawings because “the simultaneous use of at least two high power consumption devices of claim 1” is not shown in the drawings. According to Rule 1.83(a), the drawing(s) must show every feature of the invention specified in the claim. Applicants do not claim “at least two high power consumption devices.” The apparatus and method as described and claimed permits the simultaneous use of two high power consumption devices, but the devices themselves are not a feature of the invention. Therefore, the high power consumption devices do not need to be shown in the drawings according to 37 CFR 1.83(a). Moreover, it is not necessary to illustrate “the simultaneous use of at least two high power consumption devices” to understand the subject matter sought to be patented. Therefore, according to 37 CFR 1.81, drawings of this feature are not required.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102. The Office Action rejected claims 1 and 3-11 under Section 102(b) as being anticipated by Bansard (US 5,325,282). Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is not anticipated by Bansard because Bansard fails to teach each and every limitation set forth in the rejected claims. Specifically, Bansard does not teach PWM signals which have a variable duty cycle as recited in the claims.

Bansard’s microcontroller includes a memory, and the memory contains tables of value of ON times T_{on} for the switch Q which have been predetermined as a function of the supply voltage U_A and of the temperature θ so as to ensure a total charge time T_C of the capacitor C to the high voltage wanted, which is constant (Bansard , column 6, line 30-42).

According to Bansard, the control signals generated by the microcontroller for controlling ON/OFF time of switch Q are based on supply voltage U_A and temperature θ . The control signals do not have regular cycles since the supply voltage U_A and temperature θ could be varied from time to time, but the total charge time T_C of capacitor C has to be constant. So the control signals of Bansard do not contain PWM signals which have variable duty cycles.

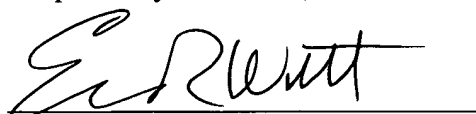
More specifically, Bansard does not teach the circumstances and conditions when the microcontroller provides a first duty cycle PWM signal and when the microcontroller provides a second duty cycle PWM signal as disclosed and claimed in this invention.

Indeed, Bansard NEVER discloses or teaches PWM signals containing variable duty cycles. The Examiner did provide a single citation by line or column number where Bansard discloses the PWM signals containing variable duty cycles. Bansard plainly fails to teach each and every feature recited in the rejected claims.

Even assuming for discussion purposes that Bansard's switch control signals are PWM signals, Bansard's control signals are generated based on supply voltage U_A and temperature θ , whereas the PWM signals of 1st duty cycle and 2nd duty cycle of this invention are generated based on a maximum voltage and a threshold voltage of the capacitor. So Bansard's control signals cannot be directly applied to this invention to achieve the same result of this invention.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under Section 102(b) and allowance of the rejected claims. If there are any remaining issues preventing allowance of the pending claims that may be clarified by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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